

Hoenck House  
9480 Murray Avenue  
Gilroy  
Santa Clara County  
California

HABS No. CA-2095

HABS,  
CAL.  
43-GIL,  
7-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Architectural and Engineering Record  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20243

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HOENCK HOUSE

HABS No. CA-2095

Location: 9480 Murray Avenue, Gilroy, Santa Clara County,  
California.

USGS Gilroy Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator  
Coordinates: 10.626700.4099630

Present Owner: George Hoenck  
9480 Murray Avenue  
Gilroy, CA 95020

Present Occupant: George Hoenck

Present Use: Residence.

Significance: This house, built around the mid-to-late 1890s stands  
as an example of prosperity acquired through  
agriculture and sits alone in its rural setting. The  
Queen Anne style with its round corner tower remains  
very much as it did originally, with little or no  
alteration on either the exterior or interior.

PART I. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

## A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This is an example of a modest Queen Anne country home that has virtually no alterations.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

## B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: This rectangular, four-bay front has two stories above a raised basement and is approximately thirty feet by forty-five feet.
2. Foundation: Concrete.
3. Walls: Drop wooden siding on the first floor with decorative wood shingles on the second floor. Siding at the front porch is diagonal wooden beaded boards. Skirting around the raised basement is vertical beaded boards and there is a wooden water table between the horizontal wooden siding and the vertical skirting. The shingles on the second floor project out over the drop siding and end with a wooden molding around the house. All the siding is painted gray.
4. Structural system, framing: Wooden frame structure.

5. Porches, stoops, balconies, bulkheads: The entrance porch on the southwest extends around the house along the southeast facade ending at the rear entrance. The shed roof is supported by large turned wooden columns with a frieze band above them having wooden spindles. There is a jigsaw wooden fan bracket below the spindle frieze band at each side of each column. The wooden railing between the posts is composed of molded wooden pieces forming a geometric rectangular design. Part of the railing on the southeast has been removed. There are six wooden steps at both the front and rear entrances, open-string, with a wooden railing extending up to the porch from a large square newel at the foot. The porch has a wooden board floor and a large square wooden ceiling. Part of the rear porch is enclosed with plastic panels in wooden frames. There is a wooden bulkhead into the cellar on the northwest side, near the center. There is a pair of wooden doors in wooden surround with wooden walls and concrete steps.
6. Chimneys: There is a brick chimney through the roof near the center of the house, that steps in and ends at the top with a projecting brick band. A brick chimney projects through the one-floor roof at the rear and steps in, ending with several courses of projecting bricks.
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: The main entrance doorway leads from the porch into a stairhall. The doorway is recessed and raised above the porch floor. The recessed jambs and soffit are paneled with molded wooden panels, and the raised sill is wooden. The wooden door has two double-raised panels in the lower section with a horizontal panel above, just below the glass. The horizontal panel has five square, hip-shaped blocks across the face on the exterior and grooves in the panel on the interior. The glazing has a large patterned glass in the center surrounded by twenty small colored glass panes. There is a transom above a large center glass, and two small colored glass panes on each side. There is a wooden surround and threshold. The brass hardware has embossed designs. The rear door on the southeast opens onto the porch from the kitchen. The wooden door has two panels in the lower section with a long, narrow horizontal panel above, just below the glass. These panels have a series of four grooves on the edges. The glass has a large center light surrounded by fourteen small lights. The wooden surround has a wooden threshold.
  - b. Windows and shutters: Windows on the first and second floor have one-over-one double-hung sashes. The top sash of the windows in the round tower bay on both floors have small colored glass panes surrounding a larger glass. There is a fixed wooden sash on the stair landing that has a large glass center surrounded by fourteen small colored panes. The windows have wooden surrounds and sills, and on the second floor the sill extends as a band

around the house. The interior trim has a bull's eye block at each side of the head. There is a small oval fixed-sash wooden window in the second floor stairhall, southeast wall, that has four key voussoirs of the heavy molded wooden trim, both on the interior and exterior. Some windows have wooden framed screens. The wooden windows in the cellar have two-light casement sashes.

8 Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The steep hipped roof on the main center portion of the house and the northeast one-floor wing are covered with asphalt shingles.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Boxed wooden cornices and eaves. The wooden barge trim at the southeast and southwest gables is decorative jigsaw work. The center has a fan-shaped panel of small spindles with a solid wooden rail across the bottom. There is a small wooden pendant in the center of the rail.
- c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: There is a round tower on the west corner of the house that forms a bay on the first and second floors. The conical roof is covered with wooden shingles and is topped with a turned wooden finial.

9. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. Cellar: The raised cellar extends under the entire house and is reached by a bulkhead on the northwest side of the exterior. It is used for storage.
- b. First floor: The entrance leads into the stair hall. On the left is a large double opening, with pocket sliding doors, that leads into the living room. On the right is the stairway leading to the second floor. There is a double doorway at the northeast end of the hall leading into the dining room.

The living room has a window on the southwest wall and a round bay at the west corner. The fireplace extends across the corner on the east. There is a doorway on the northeast wall leading into a bedroom, which has a window on the northwest wall, a doorway to a bathroom, on the northeast wall and a doorway to the dining room on the southeast wall. The dining room has a curved bay on the southeast, a built-in cupboard, and a doorway at its left side leading into the kitchen on the northeast wall. The kitchen has a projecting floor-to-ceiling flue on the northwest wall, as well as a doorway to the pantry. There are windows above the cabinets along the northeast wall, and a doorway to the exterior with a window by its right side on the southeast wall. The pantry has a window on the northeast wall.

- c. Second floor: The second floor is similar to the first floor with a stair hall at the southwest, extending into a small hall on the northeast with two bedrooms opening off of it. There is a large bedroom on the west corner with a round-bay window.
2. Stairways: The stairway to the second floor begins with a landing immediately to the right of the entrance doorway. There is a wooden seat across the southwest side with a window above it. On the southeast wall of the landing there are two windows, one stepped higher than the other. The wooden, open-string stairway leads up from the landing to another landing, turns to the left and continues up a short flight to the second floor. The molded wooden handrail, with two turned balusters at each tread, extends up from a large wooden newel on the landing ending at the ceiling on the second landing. The large, square wooden newel has recessed panels in each face and a turned wooden knob on top. There is a ceiling molding around the opening on the first floor. The open well on the second floor has a wooden railing around it that begins at a large wooden newel at the head of the stairs, turns and extends across the opening, turns again and ends at the wall. The newel has a square base with a round column and turned wooden knob on top.
  3. Flooring: Wooden floors on the first floor are covered with carpets and linoleum floor covering. Flooring on the second floor is wide wooden boards, with rugs over them.
  4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plastered walls and ceilings, on wooden lath, are wallpapered and have a wallpaper border at the ceiling. There is a plastic tile wainscot in the bathroom and a hardboard wainscot in the kitchen. The walls and ceiling in the pantry and bathroom are beaded wooden boards. The kitchen ceiling is a hard board with wooden batten.
  5. Doorways and doors: Wooden panel doors with two small raised panels in the lower section with a long, narrow horizontal panel above, just below two long narrow raised panels in the upper section. The side edges of the vertical panels and the top and bottom edge of the horizontal panel, have four grooves in them. Wooden trim around the doors is molded, and there are plinths at the base each side and a bull's eye block at the head, each side. Doorways have wooden thresholds. The large double sliding doors to the living room have the same design. There is a transom above the double doorway to the dining room that has turned wooden spindles in it.
  6. Special decorative features, trim, and cabinetwork: Wooden trim of all interior windows has bull's eye blocks at each side of the head. Door trim has bull's eye blocks at the head and plinths at the base.

The cupboard in the dining room has two glass doors in the upper section with drawers below. The trim on the dining room side has bull's eyes at the head and plinths at the base. The cupboard opens through into the kitchen, and on the kitchen side has wooden raised-panel doors above drawers. There are no bull's eyes or plinths on the cabinet or the door and window trim in the kitchen.

The fireplace in the living room spans the corner of the room. The wooden mantelpiece has a wooden shelf, and above it there is a carved wooden panel on each side of a framed, beveled mirror. The frame around the mirror extends up above the frame around the panels. There is a tile hearth.

7. Mechanical:

- a. Heating: Gas-fired floor furnace.
- b. Lighting: Modern lighting fixtures.
- c. Plumbing: There is an enameled cast-iron bathtub with rounded end and claw feet. The enameled cast-iron lavatory is a corner fixture, and there is a china water closet.

8. Site:

- 1. General setting and orientation: The house faces the southwest, sitting on the corner of Murray Avenue and Cohansey Avenue. There are several large oak trees on the northwest side of the house and several large pine trees on the southeast. There is a grassy lawn on the southeast that has a hedge across the front and southwest side. A large pine tree is on the southwest corner, and there are several other trees in the yard. Open fields are across both streets and around the house. The house sits approximately ten yards off the road.
- 2. Outbuildings: There is a barn to the northeast of the house in fair condition. The wooden structure has wooden siding, a gable roof with open eaves and is surrounded by an iron pipe fence.

In front of the barn is a small wooden shed with both horizontal and vertical boards as siding and a gable roof covered with corrugated sheet metal. Another wooden shed has wide horizontal board siding and a gable roof with asphalt shingles.

Prepared by: John P. White  
Project Supervisor  
August 1980

PART II. PROJECT INFORMATION:

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) of the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service's National Architectural and Engineering Record in cooperation with the County of Santa Clara, California. Under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS and Kenneth L. Anderson, Jr., Principal Architect, the project was completed during the summer of 1980 at the HABS Field Office, Santa Clara, California by John P. White, Project Supervisor (Associate Professor of Architecture Texas Tech. University); David T. Marsh, Jr., Project Foreman (Howard University); Jeffery Flemming, Project Historian (University of Chicago); Jane Lidz, Architect/Photographer; and student Architects Kimberley E. Harden (Auburn University); Melody S. Linger (University of Florida); and Mathew Poe (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University).